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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 489

By Jones, S.

A RESOLUTION to express support for funding of statewide home- and community-based, long-term care services.

WHEREAS, Tennessee faces a major challenge in coming years as its population ages and people live longer lives due to its lack of a long-term care system to adequately serve the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans are denied access to appropriate long-term care services because the types of services they need and can afford are not available; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans prefer receiving long-term care services that enhance independence, dignity, individual well-being, and which provide the choice to stay at home; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee lags far behind the vast majority of other states in providing home- and community-based, long-term care alternatives; and

WHEREAS, AARP Tennessee, with over 550,000 members and sixty-five local chapters across the state, has found that providing public resources for home- and community-based services is supported by over eighty percent of its membership and by a large majority of citizens of all ages; and

WHEREAS, AARP Tennessee has joined with dozens of other organizations representing senior citizens, disabled persons, individual caregivers, service agencies, and others in supporting the establishment of programs which offer the full range of long-term care alternatives, including home- and community-based services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Fiscal Year 2001 budget for the state of Tennessee should include \$11 million for the provision of home- and community-based services under the TennCare program, and \$5 million for the provision of such services for persons not eligible for TennCare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of TennCare, with this final clause omitted from such copies.